

REGENT'S PARK ROOF TERRACE

BY ADOLFO HARRISON GARDENS

Size of project 52m²

Build time Six weeks

Project value £100k

Having bought their property because of its majestic views over Regent's Park, the clients wanted an exposed roof terrace that would make the most of those views. The design for the space had to satisfy two key requirements: the owners wanted the length of the terrace to face the park, with an open, uninterrupted view as if facing a theatre stage – while also maintaining the feeling that they were immersed in a garden. →





Design and build

The fear with the first part of the brief was that it could take on the feel of an open balcony. To address this, a layout based on the stepped diamond motif was created to overlook the garden and introduce fluctuating areas of openness and enclosure, encouraging movement and exploration. To keep the project within budget, the original granite paving slabs were retained, and integrated into the design by aligning features to their grid pattern where possible. The design also introduced different viewpoints from which the surrounding vista could be enjoyed, further urging you to journey through the space.

As the weight load needed to be kept as light as possible, Western red cedar was used for all timber

work, and growing mediums more associated with green roofs were used in the planters. The terrace was exposed to both the elements and the views from a block of flats behind, so screens and a pergola structure were essential to bring a sense of shelter. Additionally, a water feature was cleverly hidden amongst the planting to disguise the noise of the city roads below.

Given the rooftop location of the garden, moving materials and equipment to and from the site was a challenge. For example, the pergola timber wouldn't fit in the lift, and instead had to be measured to fit the staircase. The garden was designed in close collaboration with Ben Skinner from Town & Country Gardens to ensure it was well built, and that difficulties brought about by the tricky access were overcome. →



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SUPPLIERS

Design
Adolfo Harrison Gardens
www.adolfoharrison.com

Contractor
Town & Country Gardens
www.tandcg.co.uk

Maintenance
Mark Poswillo
www.transformmygarden.com

Plants
Hortus Loci
www.hortusloci.co.uk
Chichester Trees & Plants
www.ctsplants.com

Water feature
Adezz
www.adezz.com
The Pot Company
www.thepotco.com

Western Red Cedar
Champion
www.championtimber.com

Chairs
Harry Bertoia
www.harrybertoia.org

Cushions
Canvasman
www.canvasman.co.uk

Planting

With all the structural elements, it was important to add balance with textured planting. Adolfo Harrison Gardens designed a planting palette based on perennials and grasses, chosen to provide movement and trail over the sides of the raised beds. Climbers provided screening and scented growth around the pergola.

The clients were happy to have regular garden maintenance, and were introduced to Mark Poswillo, previously head gardener at Chelsea Physic Garden. With Mark's input, the garden has flourished and evolved over the last few years. For example, the owners adore foxgloves, which Adolfo would never ordinarily have grown on an open roof terrace – but Mark has them thriving, much to the delight of the clients. "That's what it's about," says Adolfo. "They love sitting in their private garden among all the plants, drinking in this great view of London."

- 1 Gardener Mark Poswillo ensures the *Digitalis purpurea* thrives in these conditions
- 2 A glimpse of the stepped diamond motif that gives the garden its layout
- 3 The family table nestled among the planting
- 4 The garden's first summer, with the climbers yet to cover the pergola
- 5 The garden offers views over the City of London

ADOLFO HARRISON GARDENS

Adolfo Harrison Gardens has been creating award-winning private and public gardens of all shapes and sizes for over a decade, working on over 100 projects in that time. Thriving on the more challenging briefs, and introducing elements and materials that are designed to endure, it places particular focus on establishing a collaborative dynamic between its landscape contractors. **W:** www.adolfoharrison.com